

# The NICHD Connection

## May 2019

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## NICHD Office of Education Welcomes Dr. Erin Walsh

Dr. Erin Walsh, formerly a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Dr. Roger Woodgate, was appointed as the associate director of the NICHD Office of Education on March 18, 2019. Dr. Walsh served in a supporting role to the office starting in January 2018 and joined as a full-time program manager in June 2018. Prior to this, she was an active member of the NICHD intramural community, serving on the Fellows Advisory Committee and as chair of the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual NICHD Retreat Steering Committee. In addition to her research experience, Dr. Walsh has participated in the NIH-Colgate University Study Program since 2015, as an adjunct instructor for their upper-level biochemistry course.



Before joining NICHD for her postdoc training, Dr. Walsh received a Bachelor of Science degree in biological sciences, *summa cum laude*, from Binghamton University (State University of New York), and a PhD in cellular and molecular biology from Penn State University.

Dr. Yvette Pittman, Director of the NICHD Office of Education, comments:

It has been an absolute pleasure working with Dr. Walsh over this past year and a half! She understands all of the professional challenges that young scientists face today, and her advice to our fellows is thoughtful, honest, and well suited—always thinking of what's best for their careers. Not only has she offered a wealth of support to our fellow population, she has also supported the office in many ways administratively. I look forward to her professional growth in the field of science education, and I'm confident Dr. Walsh will excel in this leadership role.

We welcome Dr. Walsh to the Office of Education and look forward to her work in supporting the training needs of intramural scientists, fellows, and students at all levels. Her experience with academic support programs, mentorship,

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## Letter from the Editor

I met Dr. Erin Walsh the way many scientists first meet—through email! It was October 13, 2017, and a message with the subject line “Newsletter Contribution” appeared in my inbox. Erin, a postdoctoral fellow in the Woodgate lab, proposed a newsletter article about project sharing between principal investigators and their senior postdocs who are transitioning to independent research. *Clever*, I thought. It was a topic we’d never covered, but an obvious issue of importance. I encouraged Erin to pursue the topic, and she produced one of my favorite newsletter [pieces](#) thus far.

Several articles and over 150 emails later, Erin is now the Associate Director in the NICHD Office of Education—and I couldn’t be happier to continue working with her on future projects. Please join me in congratulating Erin on her new position, and check out [this issue’s front page](#) to learn more about her career path and interests.

Don’t miss your chance to hang out with the entire NICHD Office of Education crew at the upcoming [15<sup>th</sup> Annual NICHD Fellows Retreat](#). The NICHD fellows committee organized a stellar line up, including a keynote by NIH Distinguished Investigator Dr. Elaine Ostrander. Registration is limited, so don’t delay. See you there!

Your Editor in Chief,  
Shana R. Spindler, PhD

Please send questions and comments to our editor at [Shana.Spindler@gmail.com](mailto:Shana.Spindler@gmail.com).



## NICHD Office of Education Welcomes Dr. Erin Walsh

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career guidance, and grants administration will enable Dr. Walsh to perform the multiple duties associated with her new role in the institute.

### A FEW WORDS FROM DR. ERIN WALSH

Although I enjoyed my time as a bench scientist, I found I was happiest in mentorship and service-oriented roles. Whether training students and postdocs in the lab, or teaching biochemistry to a small group of undergraduates, these types of professional experiences have always left me feeling more fulfilled. Working closely with the Office of Education during my own postdoctoral training, I was able to consider various career options, both at and away from the bench, to find a path that matched my interests and passions. My excitement as I begin my new role as the associate director boils down to the following: regardless of your training level, research and careers in the sciences can be extremely challenging—for me, what is even more rewarding than my own experimental accomplishments, is being able to help young scientists find their way.

As Associate Director of the Office of Education, I look forward to serving intramural scientists while creating and delivering professional development activities. This includes seminars and workshops on public speaking, job interviewing, grantsmanship, graduate or professional school applications, and one-on-one career and professional school guidance and orientation sessions for NICHD fellows.





## It's a Day For You—Join Us for the Annual Fellows Retreat This Month

Have you [registered](#) for the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual NICHD Fellows Retreat yet? If not, check out the agenda below—it's a day you don't want to miss!

**FRIDAY, MAY 31, 2019**

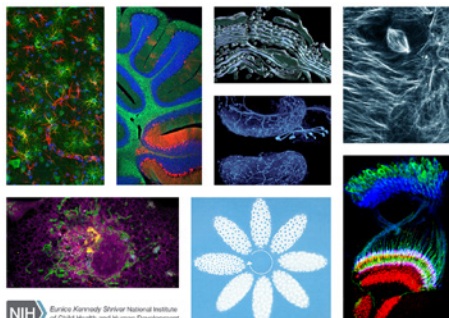
**WILLIAM F. BOLGER CENTER**

9:00 – 9:30 a.m.	Registration & Coffee
9:30 – 9:45 a.m.	<b>Welcome</b> Anshika Jain, PhD <i>Chair, 2019 Retreat Steering Committee</i>  Constantine A. Stratakis, MD, D(med)Sci <i>Scientific Director, NICHD</i>
9:45 – 10:45 a.m.	<b>Keynote Address</b> Elaine Ostrander, PhD <i>NIH Distinguished Investigator            Cancer Genetics and Comparative Genomics            Branch, NHGRI</i>
10:45 – 11:30 a.m.	Fellows Oral Presentations
11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Morning Poster Session
12:15 – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch

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“[The retreat] was a great opportunity for networking and learning about various career options.”

~2018 FELLOWS RETREAT  
FEEDBACK SURVEY RESPONSE



**FIFTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING**  
 of Postdoctoral, Clinical, & Visiting Fellows & Graduate Students  
 MAY 31, 2019 • WILLIAM F. BOLGER CENTER • POTOMAC, MD  
[retreat.nichd.nih.gov](http://retreat.nichd.nih.gov) • Registration & Abstract Deadline: April 26, 2019



## Join Us for the Annual Fellows Retreat This Month

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1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

### Career Focus: Q&A Breakout Sessions

#### Room #1: Research and Development

Allyson Byrd, PhD, *Genentech*

Kely Sheldon, PhD, *Caprico Biotechnologies*

Monica Gupta, PhD, *Taconic Biosciences*

Thomas Miller, PhD, *Food and Drug Administration*

#### Room #2: Scientific Administration

Rose Freel, PhD, *NCI Office of Technology Transfer*

Amy Kullas, PhD, *American Society for Microbiology*

Linda Huynh, PhD, *NICHD Office of Communications*

Dennis Twombly, PhD, *NICHD Office of Extramural Policy*

Elizabeth Baden, PhD, *NICHD Office of the Director*

#### Room #3: Academe & Science Education Administration

Zélia Worman, PhD, *NASA Research and Education*

*Support Services*

Sydella Blatch, PhD, *NIAID Training Office*

Kate Monzo, PhD, *University of Maryland College Park*

Patricia Silveyra, PhD, *University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

3:00 – 3:45 p.m.

### Fellows Oral Presentations

3:45 – 4:15 p.m.

### Scientific and Mentoring Perspective

Mark Stopfer, PhD

*Senior Investigator*

*Section on Sensory Coding and Neural Ensembles, NICHD*

4:15 – 5:00 p.m.

### Afternoon Poster Session

5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

### Social Hour

Pony Express Bar & Grill



## The Rep Report

*By Suna Gulay, PhD*

As the current NICHD Basic Sciences Institutes and Centers (IC) Representative, I represent NICHD postdoctoral fellows at the Fellows Committee (FelCom) meeting every month and share the latest news with you here. Do you have a concern or question that you want brought up at the next meeting? Contact me at [suna.gulay@nih.gov](mailto:suna.gulay@nih.gov)!



The NIH Green Labs Program volunteers gave a presentation at the April FelCom meeting to talk about a few of their sustainability initiatives. These include promoting the use of electronic notebooks, safer alternatives to ethidium bromide, sustainable signal detection options for western blot, Styrofoam and chemical bottle recycling services for your laboratory, and the NIH Solvent Recovery Program. If you would like to bring environment-friendly options like these to your laboratories, please visit the [NIH Green Labs Program website](#) and fill out the [self-assessment form](#).

The Visiting Fellows Committee (VFC) elected two new co-chairs in March. Congratulations to Vrushali Agashe (NEI) and Michael Buch (NIAMS)! This is a very active committee providing various leadership and international networking opportunities to visiting fellows as well as helping forge friendships between diverse backgrounds. If you are interested in joining them, here are their current openings:

### VFC Social Subcommittee Position

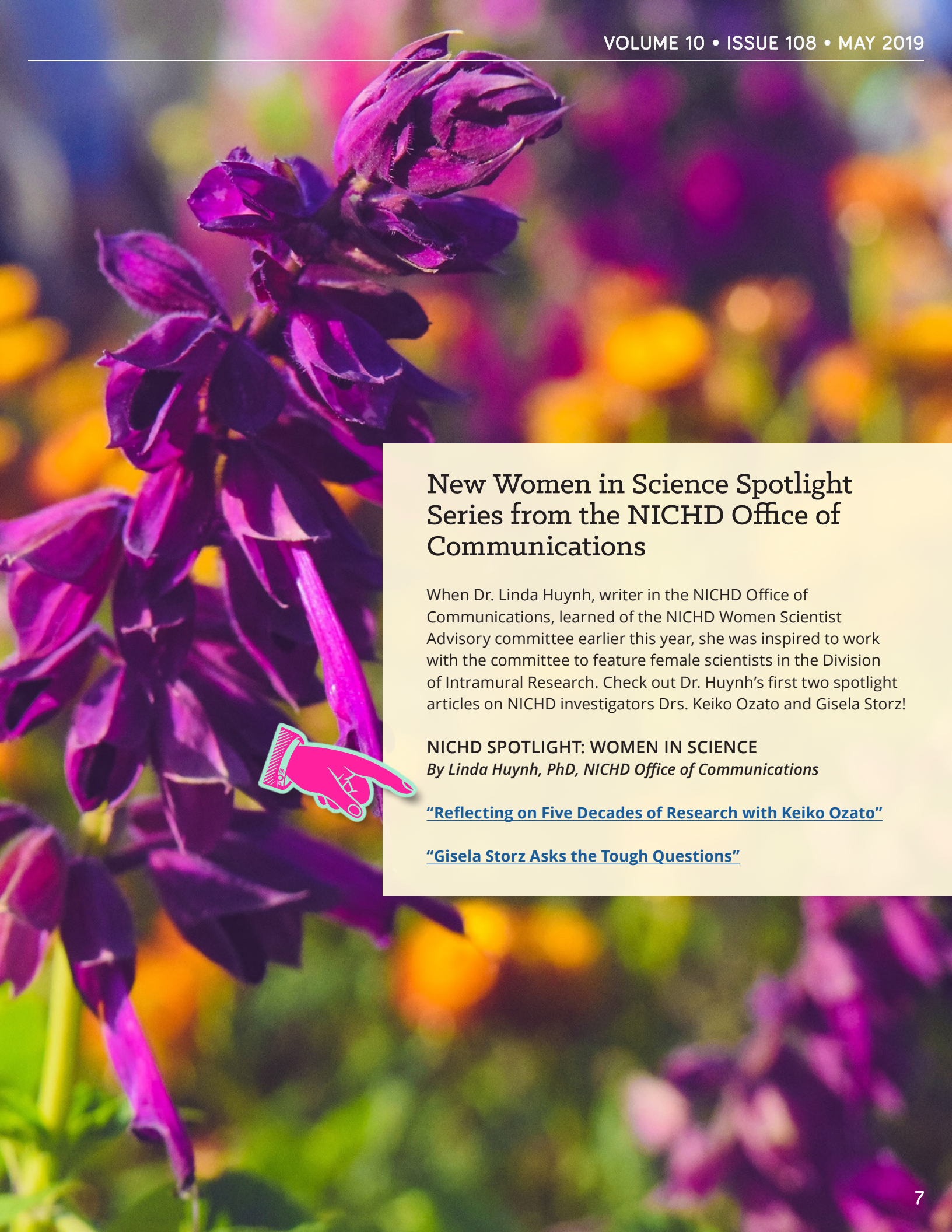
This is the subcommittee that organizes the VFC Social Networking events, DC Area Networking events, and the Fellows into the Wild outings.

### Website Administrator Position

VFC has an excellent [website](#) that needs to be updated with current activities and its design improved to ensure important information is visible.

Please contact [Vrushali](#) and [Michael](#) to learn more, or follow the [Fellow-L](#) and [Visiting Fellows](#) listservs.





## New Women in Science Spotlight Series from the NICHD Office of Communications

When Dr. Linda Huynh, writer in the NICHD Office of Communications, learned of the NICHD Women Scientist Advisory committee earlier this year, she was inspired to work with the committee to feature female scientists in the Division of Intramural Research. Check out Dr. Huynh's first two spotlight articles on NICHD investigators Drs. Keiko Ozato and Gisela Storz!

**NICHD SPOTLIGHT: WOMEN IN SCIENCE**  
*By Linda Huynh, PhD, NICHD Office of Communications*

["Reflecting on Five Decades of Research with Keiko Ozato"](#)

["Gisela Storz Asks the Tough Questions"](#)





## Upcoming NIH-Wide Office of Intramural Training and Education (OITE) Events

For more information and registration, please visit [Upcoming OITE Events](#).

Tips on Filling Out Your AMCAS Application (May 7)

Workplace Dynamics V: Diversity in a Multicultural Society (May 8)

12<sup>th</sup> Annual NIH Career Symposium (May 10)

Postbac Seminar Series (May 16)

Management Boot Camp (May 23-24)



## May Announcements

### THE ANNUAL LILLY CONFERENCE ON DESIGNING EFFECTIVE TEACHING

**May 30 - June 2, 2019 in Bethesda**

If you are considering a teaching career, this conference may be a great fit for you! The mission of the Lilly Conference is to provide a forum to share and model a scholarly approach to teaching and learning that reports quality student learning outcomes while promoting professional development of faculty.

Conference participants include faculty and administrators at various stages in their academic careers. They come from across the United States, representing nearly every discipline found in higher education. This is an opportunity for faculty to discuss, critique, and improve teaching and learning within their campuses. The meeting offers a variety of sessions so that participants can match their learning preferences to the presentation formats: 100-minute workshops, 50-minute sessions, 20-minute discussions, traditional plenary addresses, 30-minute round table discussions, and poster sessions.

For more information about the conference, visit <http://www.lillyconferences-md.com>.

Last year, the Office of Education sponsored two NICHD postdocs to attend.

Please contact Dr. Erin Walsh ([erin.walsh@nih.gov](mailto:erin.walsh@nih.gov)) by **Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup>**, if you are interested in attending.

### ARE YOU A BUDDING PHOTOGRAPHER? CHECK THIS OUT

The NICHD Office of Education is seeking a fellow with photography experience for the upcoming fellows retreat. Your photography of the event will appear in the retreat recap issue of *The NICHD Connection* this summer. If you are interested, please contact Nicki Swan ([jonasnic@mail.nih.gov](mailto:jonasnic@mail.nih.gov)) for additional details.



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## May Announcements

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### COMMUNICATE YOUR RESEARCH TO THE PUBLIC

Did you know? The NICHD Office of Communications posts intramural research findings on the institute's social media accounts. They're looking for fellows to discuss their work and pose for pictures in the lab, to offer a behind-the-scenes look at research. If you are interested or have biomedical art images to share, please contact Linda Huynh, PhD, at [linda.huynh@nih.gov](mailto:linda.huynh@nih.gov).

If you have an accepted manuscript that is potentially newsworthy for the general public, please email the office's press team at [nichdpress@mail.nih.gov](mailto:nichdpress@mail.nih.gov) before the paper is published. Include a copy of the manuscript and a brief, plain language explanation on why the work is important.

### SAVE THE DATE: JUNE 10, GRANT WRITING SESSION FOR IRF APPLICANTS

*Funding opportunity for all NICHD fellows*

In 2018, DIR launched the **Intramural Research Fellowship (IRF)**, a competitive research funding opportunity for NICHD postdoctoral, visiting, and clinical fellows. Its main objective is to promote grant writing among our intramural trainees, while enhancing awareness of the various components of an NIH grant application. **The IRF submission date is Monday, September 9, 2019.**

For all prospective applicants, the **Office of Education** will offer a training session on **Monday, June 10, in Building 31, conference room 2A48** (A-wing, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor), from 1 to 3 p.m. We will cover various components of an NIH grant, details about the application and review processes, and tips on preparing an IRF application. ***Attendance at this training session is a requirement for submission.***

For more information on the IRF, please visit [NICHD Intramural Research Fellowship](#).



## May Events

**THURSDAY, MAY 2, 10 AM – 3:30 PM**  
**NIH-Wide Postbac Poster Day**  
Natcher Conference Center (Building 45)

For more information about the event, please visit  
[https://www.training.nih.gov/postbac\\_poster\\_day](https://www.training.nih.gov/postbac_poster_day).

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 10 AM – 12 NOON**  
**NICHD Three-minute-Talk (TmT) Competition**  
Building 31, Conference Room 2A48

Please come by to cheer on your colleagues who have entered the 2019 TmT Competition! Three finalists will be chosen to compete against other institutes in the next round. Finalists will each be awarded \$500 for approved training/travel. Hope to see you there!



**THURSDAY, MAY 9, 3 – 4 PM**  
**NICHD Fellows Advisory Committee Meeting**

The committee meets monthly to exchange ideas and informally discuss ways we can enhance and tailor the training experience within the NICHD intramural. Please contact Dr. Erin Walsh at [erin.walsh@nih.gov](mailto:erin.walsh@nih.gov) if you are interested in joining the group.

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## May Events

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 1 – 2:30 PM

### **Responsible Conduct of Research Training for New NICHD Postdocs** “Discussion of Ethical Research Practices: Making Good Choices”

*This mandatory training is for all postdocs who started after January 1, 2018.*

Led by the Office of Education, this session will include case studies and reading assignments related to research integrity and discussions on ways to reduce risk factors. The session will begin with a brief discussion on pre-assigned reading materials, followed by small-group, team-based learning exercises involving complex cases that promote discussions of either fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, mentoring expectations, and/or trainee responsibilities. The workshop will include good practices of data management and presentation, including lab notebook management—both physical and electronic. For additional details and to register, contact Dr. Erin Walsh at [erin.walsh@nih.gov](mailto:erin.walsh@nih.gov).

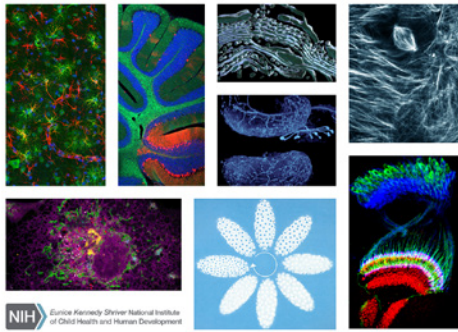
FRIDAY, MAY 31, 9 AM – 5 PM

### **Fellows Retreat: The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting for Postdoctoral, Clinical, and Visiting Fellows and Graduate Students**

William F. Bolger Center in Potomac, MD

Step away from the lab for a day to network with your NICHD colleagues, participate in a career exploration session, and learn more about the recent developments in our intramural research programs. See you there!

Registration is required. Please register by May 7 at <http://retreat.nichd.nih.gov>.



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